

RETURN

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To an ADDRESS of the HOUSE of COMMONS dated the 21st February, 1901, for copies of all correspondence, telegrams and reports that have passed since March, 1900, between the Dominion Government and the Imperial Government and between the Dominion Government and the Provincial Government of British Columbia in regard to Mongolian immigration into Canada.

R. W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State.

(Mr. Chamberlain to Lord Minto.)

DOWNING STREET, June 23, 1900.

Governor General,
The Right Honourable
The Earl of Minto, G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

With reference to my despatch No. 67 of the 8th March and to previous correspondence respecting the reported intentions of the Canadian Government with regard to Chinese Immigration into the Dominion, I have the honour to transmit to you, for communication to your Ministers, copy of a further note from the Chinese Minister on the subject.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

CHINESE LEGATION, June 14, 1900.

The Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., &c., &c., &c.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's letter of March 12th informing me that my note of 22nd February, relative to a rumored intention on the part of the Government of the Dominion to increase the capitation tax now levied on Chinese immigrants into British Columbia has been forwarded to the Governor General of Canada for the consideration of His Excellency and his Ministers.

Whilst awaiting an intimation as to the result of their deliberations, I beg leave to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram from the President of a Chinese Benevolent Society at Victoria, British Columbia, in which it is alleged that the Prime Minister of Canada had lately made a statement to the effect that, in a Bill that would shortly be presented to Parliament for the augmentation of the poll tax now levied on Asiatics entering the colony, provision would be made for Japanese immigrants being exempted from the payment of the tax, which would henceforth be imposed on Chinese alone.

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Though reluctant to believe that the Government of the Dominion would carry the objectionable legislation against which the Chinese Government have so often had occasion to protest, to the length of discrimination against Asiatics, to the disadvantage of China, I cannot altogether ignore the statement. I, therefore, bring it to the notice of Your Lordship in the hope that you may be in a position to give me some information relative to the intention of the Government at Ottawa in respect of Chinese immigrants residing in, or wishing to enter the Dominion of Canada.

LOFENGLUH.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE,
OTTAWA, July 20, 1900.

The undersigned Minister of Trade and Commerce has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of P. C. Reference No. 327 L., being copy of a communication from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of date the 23rd of June ultimo, to His Excellency the Governor General, having reference to previous correspondence (*vide* P. C. Reference No. 144 L., despatch No. 69 of the 8th of March last) respecting the reported intention of the Canadian Government in regard to Chinese immigration into the Dominion, and transmitting for communication to Canadian Ministers a copy of a further note from the Chinese Ambassador on the subject.

In reporting thereon, the undersigned submits that in view of the repeated representations made to the Canadian Government in relation to the large increase of immigrants from China and Japan, and the urgent representations made by the British Columbia Government, it has been found necessary in a measure to modify the Chinese Immigration Law, and in connection therewith to increase the capitation tax from \$50 to \$100, *vide* the Act Chapter 32 of the late session of the Dominion Parliament. The undersigned would further point out that aside from the increase in the 'capitation' the requirements of the Act are not in many respects as onerous as heretofore, and it is hoped that it will prove satisfactory to all concerned. He further recommends that, if approved, His Excellency be moved to forward a copy of the Minute of Council founded hereon to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for his information and for that of the Chinese Minister.

R. J. CARTWRIGHT.

Mr. Chamberlain to Lord Minto.

DOWNING STREET, March 8, 1900.

Governor General,

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Minto, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

With reference to my despatch, No. 286, of November 30 last, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the consideration of your Ministers, copies of a note from the Chinese Minister at this Court and of a telegram from a Chinese association at Victoria, British Columbia, which have been received at the Foreign Office, on the subject of the rumoured intention of the Dominion Government to ask the Canadian Parliament to increase the capitation tax on Chinese entering Canada.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 67

CHINESE LEGATION, February 22, 1900.

The Most Noble

The Marquess of Salisbury, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

On several occasions I have had to trouble your lordship with representations respecting the capitation tax imposed on Chinese subjects wishing to enter Canada, and I regret to have to do so again.

I have received a telegram from the president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association at Victoria, British Columbia, stating that the Government of the Dominion are now considering the advisability of still further increasing the already onerous poll tax which is levied on Chinese subjects entering the colony, and asserting that should this be done it will be ruinous to Chinese trade in the Dominion.

I trust that your lordship will be able to give me an assurance that neither the Provincial Government of British Columbia nor the Federal Government at Ottawa have any intention of increasing a tax against the principle of which the Chinese Government have never ceased to protest, as being invidious, offensive to China and altogether opposed to the spirit of international comity.

LOFENGLUH.

TELEGRAM from the President of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, dated February 21, 1900.

Dominion Government considering heavy increase capitation tax Chinese entering Canada, undoubtedly resulting greatest injury trade both nations. Have cabled our ambassador, London, respectfully request your co-operation and assistance in urging British Government great injustice of proposed legislation.

LT.-GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, August 16, 1900.

The Honourable

The Secretary of State, Ottawa.

I have the honour to forward herewith a certified copy of an approved minute of the 14th instant, embodying a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, setting forth the opinion of that body as regards the effective mode of dealing with the question of restricting Mongolian immigration in Canada.

HENRI G. JOLY DE LOTBINIERE,
Lieutenant Governor.

COPY of a report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor on August 14, 1900.

The committee of Council submit for the approval of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor the undermentioned resolution of the Legislative Assembly, namely:—

Resolved,—Whereas resolutions have been passed by this House from time to time requesting the Dominion Government to increase the poll tax on Chinese immigrants into Canada;

And whereas the Dominion has passed an Act known as the "Chinese Immigration Act," 1900, increasing the poll tax from the sum of \$50 to \$100;

Be it resolved that, in the opinion of this House, the said Act is ineffective and inadequate to prevent Chinese immigration into Canada.

Be it further resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor requesting him to respectfully urge upon the Dominion Government that the effective mode of dealing with the question of restricting Mongolian

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immigration into Canada would be by either increasing the amount of the per capita tax to the sum of \$500 or by the passing of an Act based on the lines of the Natal Act, known as the "Immigration Restriction Act, 1897."

The committee advise that a copy of this minute, if approved, be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State.

J. D. PRENTICE,
Clerk, Executive Council.

Dated August 13, 1900.

OTTAWA, August 22, 1900.

His Honour

The Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia,
Victoria, B.C.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 16th instant, transmitting, therewith, a certified copy of an approved Minute of Your Executive Council of the 14th instant, embodying a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of your province dealing with the question of restricting Mongolian immigration in Canada, and to state that the matter has been submitted to His Excellency in Council.

P. PELLETIER,
Acting Under Secretary of State.

Department of Trade & Commerce,
Ottawa, September 19, 1900.

The undersigned Minister of Trade and Commerce has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of P. C. Reference No. 3971, being a copy of Report by the Honourable the Executive Council of British Columbia, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor on the August 14 ultimo, submitting a Resolution upon the subject of Chinese Immigration into Canada.

In reporting thereon the undersigned has the honour to submit that the oft-repeated demands of the British Columbia Legislature for more restrictive measures had due consideration during the recent Session of Parliament when a new Chinese Immigration Bill was introduced and fully discussed. The prevailing opinion of the majority of the members of Parliament and of the Senate was not in favour of approving of the restrictions demanded by the British Columbia Legislature; but the matter having had full discussion it was deemed sufficient for the time being at least to increase the Poll-Tax on Chinese from \$50 to \$100, such increase to take effect from January 1 next; and inasmuch as it was stated on the Floor of the House that a commission would be appointed to enquire into the matter, the undersigned does not deem it expedient to recommend any departure from the law as it now exists and is provided for from January 1 next, until it is shown, after investigation, by report of such commission that it is in the interests of the Dominion at large that further restrictions should be imposed.

The undersigned, therefore, recommends that, if approved, His Excellency be moved to forward to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia a copy of the Minute of Council founded hereon.

R. J. CARTWRIGHT.